

# **California Recreational Trails Committee**

## **Minutes**

**February 27, 2008**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Carpinteria City Council Chambers  
5775 Carpinteria Avenue, Carpinteria, CA**

- I. Call to Order and Comments from the Chair
  - A. Meeting called to order at 9:07 AM by Maryanne Vancio, Chair
  - B. Thanks to Greg Gandrud for bringing the Committee to Carpinteria.
  - C. Thanks to the City of Carpinteria for hosting this meeting and for the tour yesterday, especially Dave Durflinger and Matt Roberts. Thanks to the community member tour guides as well.
- II. Introduction of Committee Members (CRTC) and Staff
  - A. Greg Gandrud (GG), Member
  - B. Jeannie Gillen (JG), Member
  - C. John Mercurio (JM), Member
  - D. Maryanne Vancio (MV), Member
  - E. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member
  - F. Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division for California State Parks (CSP)
  - G. Steve Musillami (SM), Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
  - H. Cheryl Essex (CE), Park & Recreation Specialist for CSP
- III. Minutes approval from December 2007 Meeting
  - A. Minutes from the December 7, 2007 meeting were moved for approval by JG, seconded by LZ and approved unanimously.
- IV. Reports
  - A. State Park Director's Report (DR)
    - 1. The Governor's budget recommends a 10% reduction in CSP general fund support. Other revenues include concessions, visitor fees and bonds. Director recommends closing parks to accomplish this, as many planning & maintenance operations have been deferred for years while new cuts that imperil public safety & visitor experiences are not acceptable. Legislative analyst's report suggested \$1/visitor fee increase but, since we charge by the vehicle, it would be more than that.
    - 2. Is there a hiring freeze? (JM) No—we are hiring to stay within our limits. (DR)
    - 3. What are community reactions? (JG) Basically, "not my park!" Volunteer organizations could suffer. There is a lot of support for keeping parks open. (DR)

4. I read a report which suggested CSP is reverting \$30m to general fund? (JG) Yes-that's backfilled by Proposition 84 bonds for health & safety budget items. (DR)

B. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (SM)

1. California Coastal Trail Grant Projects
  - a) Glass Beach Area – McKerricher State Beach
    - (1) Some local opposition by California Native Plant Society
    - (2) Goal to complete Mitigated Negative Declaration by beginning of April 2008
  - b) Tin House Trail (Water's Ridge Trail) – Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park (SP)
    - (1) CSP staff chose an alternate route to connect the Ewoldson and Tanbark trails
    - (2) Goal for construction is fall of 2008
  - c) Soberanes Point South Segment – Garrapata SP
    - (1) Access point scope revision
    - (2) Inventory of designated and way trails completed
  - d) Elephant Seal Boardwalk – San Simeon SP
    - (1) Permitting is completed
    - (2) Start construction in summer after seal mating & pupping season
2. Committee Member Appointments
  - a) JM & JG have agreed to serve until reappointed or replaced.
  - b) No word from the Appointments Office on new appointments
3. Trails Conference Update
  - a) Two fantastic Keynote speakers
    - (1) Joan Embury w/ animals
    - (2) Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods)
  - b) Workshops
    - (1) Riverpark Planning and Implementation
    - (2) Trail Interpretive Planning and Signage
    - (3) Non-paved Trail Cost Estimating
  - c) Theme "Building Partnerships for Trails"
  - d) 15 Concurrent Sessions
  - e) Plenary Session will be on the 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation supporting TEA funding
  - f) Trail Mixer is sponsored by the California Trails & Greenways Foundation
  - g) Registration will open March 2008
  - h) Sponsors to date:
    - (1) San Diego County
    - (2) City of San Diego
    - (3) California State Parks
    - (4) Newland Communities
    - (5) California Trails and Greenways Foundation
    - (6) Blossom Valley Riders and Gardeners
    - (7) Desert Arabian Horseman's Association
    - (8) Trust for Public Lands
    - (9) KTU+A

- (10) Federal Highway Administration
  - (11) Coastwalk
  - (12) California State Parks Foundation
- 4. RTP Workshops
  - a) March, April and May 2008
  - b) They are free—see flyer or website for details
- 5. California Riding & Hiking Trail (CRHT) in San Diego County
  - a) Goal: to transfer CSP easements to the county
  - b) On-going data gathering & mapping is occurring
  - c) Meeting with agencies & concerned stakeholders
- 6. Pacific Crest Trail Association holds Trail Fest 2008
  - a) Sacramento, March 29, Lion's Gate Conference Facility
  - b) Partners Meeting March 28
  - c) More information at: [www.pcta.org](http://www.pcta.org)
- 7. Multi-use Trail Progress

CSP is working on implementing a tool for evaluating proposed changes in trail use with a "Change in Use Survey" form. This tool will take into consideration the many variables that must be evaluated prior to changing use of a trail. Details will be covered later in the Agenda.
- 8. Suggestions for next meetings (after May in San Diego):  
Glendale, Marin County, Redding, San Jose, Yosemite, Los Angeles
- C. Chair Report (MV)
  - 1. Attended CRHT meetings on behalf of San Diego County. Federal & Indian land routes reviewed. Meeting with CA Dept. of Fish & Game is planned for March.
- D. Member Reports
  - 1. LZ
    - a) New 13 mile multi-use trail proposed from Weimer to Auburn. Funding is set aside—construction begins this spring!
    - b) PCWA pump station constructed at old Auburn Dam site and river has been reopened to kayaks. Two new parking/staging areas have been constructed upstream from the new pump station.

2. JG

- a) California Trail Days are Apr 12 & 13, 2008. Email for more information: [www.californiatrildays@sierratel.org](mailto:www.californiatrildays@sierratel.org)
- b) National Trails symposium in Arkansas in November 2008
- c) CA Assn. of Governments will lobby for reauthorization of TEA/RTP Plan
- d) Prescriptive Right to Trail/Access vs. Development article
- e) Concerns about the proposed Pismo Beach lodge expressed in letter to CSP
- f) Status of Pismo dunes, Cuyamaca & Malibu equestrian issues?
- g) Millerton Lake meeting scheduled to discuss user conflicts
- h) Cold Springs Trail toured by CRTC members seemed very narrow and scary for multi-use

3. JM

- a) No progress of Great California Delta Trail
- b) Volunteered to GPS Bizz Johnson trail for Rails-to-Trails

4. GG

- a) Thanks to the City of Carpinteria and citizen volunteers for hosting this meeting and yesterday's tour.
- b) Encourages the community to contact him with any trail issues

5. MV

- a) Fire greatly impacted San Dieguito Trail organization

E. Subcommittee Reports

1. CRTC Awards Subcommittee (MV)

- a) Waiting to receive nominations from Jeff Weinstein

2. User Conflict Subcommittee

- a) Cold Spring Trail is an extreme example—steep, high use, limited line-of-sight, many users, narrow. We need multi-use guidelines. (GG)
- b) People are looking to the State for guidance. (JG)
- c) The Change-of-Use Survey is a really good start. (MV)
- d) CSP doesn't have the authority to require other agencies to follow guidelines. (DR)
- e) CSP is looking at it's own guidelines (DR)
- f) CSP should develop guidelines & encourage local agencies to adopt them. (GG)
- j) Change-in-Use Survey is a new tool for CSP to review requests for changes in a trail's designated use. (SM)

### 3. Trail Portal Subcommittee

- a) Internet Portal with trail attributes is important. It could be used by public safety, trail volunteers and users. A volunteer system may be more prone to inaccuracies. We need \$20,000 to begin. The university says it's too big a project for them. (GG)
- b) We need it! (JG, MV)
- c) We need to find a funding source outside CSP. Can we discuss it at the Conference? (JM)
- d) Can't we move it forward now? (GG)
- e) Our Statewide Trails Section has no time to focus on it. ABAG has an example on their website. Green Info has been asked to help with regional trails. (DR)
- f) I will talk to Green Info. There is very limited information in Carpinteria region. (GG)
- g) User info would be helpful in Kernville area of Sequoia Nat'l Forest. (JG)

## V. New Business

### A. Election of Officers

- 1. JM nominated JG for chair.
- 2. JG declined, but nominated GG for chair, LZ & JM for vice chairs.
- 3. MV seconded. Unanimously approved.

### B. CSP Change-in-Use Survey for Multiple Use Trails (SM)

- 1. This survey (attached) was developed recently by CSP experts using the East Bay Parks model. It's a tool to evaluate change potential. It doesn't focus on one user group.
  - a) For example, Karl Knapp, Dave Gould & I tested it at Mt. Tamalpais' Easy Grade Trail where mountain bike users wanted to get to adjacent water district property. We had mountain bike, hiker and equestrian input. The need for a connection here is clear, but the soil conditions aren't sustainable for mountain bike use at current grades. If we add them, the speed must be reduced by re-design. This information will go into the CEQA evaluation for a new alignment.
  - b) CSP needs Road & Trail Management Plans for many units so trails can be evaluated as a system. A complete inventory of trails is planned, but it's a very slow process with little funding.
- 2. Looks like a comprehensive tool. We will review it. Thanks! (MV, JG, GG, JM)
- 3. We plan to discuss this at the Trails Conference. (SM)

## VI. Old Business

- A. We are preparing a report to the legislature on how we are progressing on the goals of the California Recreational Trails Plan. Your input at the workshop yesterday will help. We will discuss this at the Trails Conference. (SM)
- B. The workshop clarified that progress is being made. I want more progress on the accounting of volunteer efforts. The portal and trails conference are important themes throughout many goals. (JG)
- C. The website: [www.parks.ca.gov/trails](http://www.parks.ca.gov/trails) has the California Recreational Trails Plan, the update information and the regional trail corridor update. (SM)
- D. We are happy to see the San Dieguito and Rim-of-the-Valley representatives here. (DR)

## VII. Presentation

- A. California Coastal Trail Planning & Progress by Mike Lundsford (ML), area coordinator for Coastwalk
  - 1. Is access through Vandenburg possible (JM)? For special events, but it's conditional (ML).
  - 2. Are communities making trail connections? (MV) Three places I'm aware of, but vertical access problems limit this. Gaviota area is planning a 70 mile loop (ML).
  - 3. CSP is looking at recognition strategies like consistent signage on regional trails (DR). The State Coastal Conservancy and Coastwalk have partnered with CSP on signage for seven coastal trail projects (SM).

## VIII. Public Comment

- A. Vie Obern of the Santa Barbara Trails Council founded the coastal/De Anza trail in Ventura in 1969 and Coastwalk in Santa Barbara County. A reenactment of the De Anza journey is sponsored by the Anza Society every 10 years. Anza Society conference is planned at the Presidio on March 7.
- B. Mary Benson is LA Trails Project executive director. She brings greetings from LA County Supervisor Mike Antonovich. Rim-of-the-Valley trail was founded in 1974, but is mostly ephemeral. There is no logo or connectivity and much of the trail needs re-alignment. It's a complex undertaking with 27 jurisdictions. She has trail plans & maps to share with us today.
- C. Jim Hasenauer of IMBA is very concerned about possible CSP park closures as there are many backcountry trails that could be affected (ie: Topanga, Henry Coe). Many trail users don't pay fees and use less crowded parks. He hopes that CSP will keep back country trails open as these users can police closed parks. He congratulated San Diego County for working toward CRHT acquisition. He suggests that we consider maximizing use and diverse experiences when evaluating multi-use trails.
- D. Chris Orr of the Santa Barbara Trails Council advised that Santa Barbara has been dealing with trail issues for 40 years, mountain bikes for 30 years, and has had multi-user group meetings for the past seven years. The Front Country Task Force is working on solutions that they would like to bring to the CRTC. He thinks the change-in-use survey is a good tool

with modifications. He has trail portal suggestions if the subcommittee would like to contact him.

E. Mary Ann Webster of the Sierra Club is concerned about budget reductions for trail maintenance. Closed trails increase maintenance problems later. She doesn't like the tendency of new trails to be "seamless", flat, straight, wide. Trail survey doesn't measure trail enjoyment factors. Anecdotal/subjective information is important, because the purpose of trails is enjoyment. Trail supporters are made by the enjoyment factor. She requests CRTC support of the ad-hoc committee. A coastal slope trail in LA is planned from Lower Topanga to Leo Cabrillo.

F. Lynn Brown's reaction when she saw the Cold Spring Trail: "Oh, Lord!!" She is with Equestrian Trails Inc., where multi-use recommendations are available on the website. Does the survey trump these? Western Horseman Magazine is doing a spread on San Diego Trails. The ad-hoc committee's work has been delayed while members are recruited that represent mountain biking. A literature review is planned. She requests CRTC support.

G. Karen Jenkins, an equestrian and hiker, has been using Santa Barbara trails for 47 years. She has multi-use trail concerns. She would feel badly if La Purissima rides were closed.

IX. Next Meeting – May 29, 2008 – San Diego, CA (2008 California Trails & Greenways Conference)

X. Adjournment at 12:05 PM